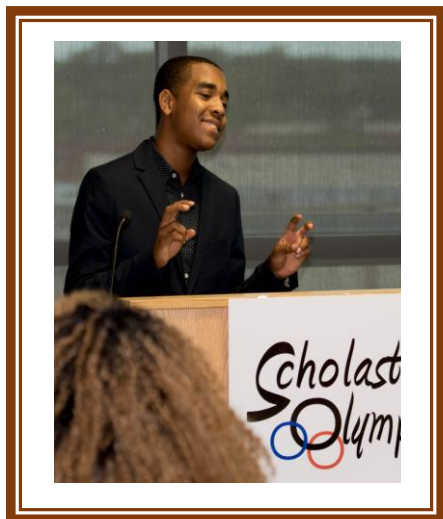


## **PRESS RELEASE:**

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### **HOMESCHOOLED YOUTH TAKES GOLD IN SPEECH CONTEST**

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – Caleb Clark of Washington, D.C. learned the real meaning of “this will not hurt” as a toddler during his first few trips to the dentist and his witty account not only drew chuckles at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholastic Olympics on May 7 but 1<sup>st</sup> place in the speech competition.



“Why does the dentist say ‘this won’t hurt,’” asked the 16-year-old homeschooled Clark, who is affiliated with the Garrett Morgan Math and Science Academy, “...needles cause excruciating pain?”

He concluded: “The reason dentists say ‘this will not hurt’ is because they are never in pain. They are just talking to themselves within earshot of us patients.”

Clark won \$500 and a gold medal for 1<sup>st</sup> place, beating out Eleanor Roosevelt High School seniors Jordan Epps and Dagmawi Sirak. Epps came in 2<sup>nd</sup> for the silver medal and \$300, while Sirak won 3<sup>rd</sup>, \$200 and a bronze medal.

At the Scholastic Olympics, students compete in two of four competitions: the speech/oratory contest; U.S. History competition; a traditional Spelling Bee, and a Jeopardy style math-a-thon. The prizes are the same for each category and local businesses donate museum passes, tickets and other gifts for the winners. The goal is to celebrate the academic achievements of high school students in the DMV similar to the ways student athletes are supported and encouraged.

Nearly 100 students have won more than \$30,000 in cash by competing in the annual competitions the past seven years.

“This was my first time presenting a comedy-based speech and judging from the response I think it was successful,” said Clark who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the category last year.

The Christian Education Ministry of First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, is one of the sponsors for the oratory award. And, for the first year, High Bridge Foundation Inc. partnered with Scholastic Olympics and funded the entire U.S. History category.

Scholastic Olympics, Inc. is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that attacks learning deficits with alternative or unconventional educational programs. The annual academic contest is the signature program organized by Tamara M. Cooke Henry, Ph.D., and her daughters Tiffany and Charisse.



From left: Caleb Clark, Jordan Epps of Roosevelt, Dagmawi Sirak of Roosevelt, Jeremy Mensah of Riverdale Baptist School and Faith Choh of Roosevelt

<b>SPEECH</b>	<b>SPELLING</b>	<b>U.S. HISTORY</b>	<b>MATH</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place <b>Caleb Clark, homeschooled</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Place <b>Marvellous Ogunsola.</b> <b>Roosevelt</b> freshman	1 <sup>st</sup> Place <b>Katherine York, Roosevelt</b> senior	1 <sup>st</sup> Place <b>Rekik Ziku, Northwestern</b> sophomore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place <b>Jordan Epps, Roosevelt</b> senior	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place <b>Sarah Awang, Parkdale</b> sophomore	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place <b>Dagmawi Sirak, Roosevelt</b> senior	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place <b>Alexander Rauda, Parkdale</b> senior
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place <b>Dagmawi Sirak, Roosevelt</b> senior	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place <b>Linda Uzoma, Flowers</b> junior	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place <b>Daisy Noel Ndofor, Largo</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place <b>Linda Uzoma, Flowers</b> junior